



CONGRESSMAN

**JOHN SARBANES**

REPRESENTING MARYLAND'S 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

## Sarbanes Working for Baltimore City

### *Economic Development:*

- **Help Business Development Get Back on Track**—The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act created a new type of public private partnership, Recovery Zone Facility Bonds, that will help private business development in communities hit hardest by our economic downturn. Baltimore City will leverage \$22 million in federal tax cuts to issue bonds financing projects valued at over \$37 million. The following projects, selected by Baltimore City, will produce 184 construction jobs and over 177 permanent jobs:
  - \$12.4 million project which will convert the vacant upper floors of the train station to a 77 room boutique hotel called the Inn at Penn Station
  - \$25 million for a 60,000 square foot laundry facility in Curtis Bay
- **Connecting Small Business Owners to the Federal Regulators**—In July, I joined officials from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in a small business roundtable discussion in Baltimore City. This event brought together small business owners, lenders and regulators to discuss issues impacting access to credit and technical support for Maryland small businesses. Emerging themes, best practices and common challenges will be presented at a national Federal Reserve Board of Governors event to elicit concrete actions that can be taken by the Board, national policymakers, federal agencies and other stakeholders to help small businesses.
- **Providing Small Businesses Access to Microlenders**—The microloan program is designed to help mitigate the credit freeze by providing small loans to small businesses. Unfortunately, no community-based microlenders have been established in the Central Maryland region, denying small businesses access to these loans a full twelve months after Congress passed the Recovery Act. In response, I wrote to SBA Administrator Karen Mills asking her to move quickly to establish lenders in our region. My staff is working with SBA and local government officials in Baltimore to establish a non-profit intermediary to get this initiative back on track in Maryland.
- **Helping Local Businesses Access Federal Funding**—Ellicott Dredges is a manufacturing company that specializes in dredging equipment and has operated in Baltimore for over a hundred years. I helped them secure a Recovery Act Small Shipyard Grant that will enable Ellicott Dredges to create or retain 25 good-paying jobs in Baltimore. It's important to fight for every single job because small businesses will take the lead in transforming our economy.

### *Transportation:*

- **Investing in the MARC Commuter Rail System**—I am a strong supporter of MARC and, more generally, a robust public transportation system in Maryland. I share the frustration felt by riders with the recent problems and unpredictability with MARC. In order to make MARC more reliable, I have worked in the Congress to secure \$23 million in additional capital funding to upgrade railcars and parking facilities. The Recovery Act also provided over \$90 million for the MARC system to fund a new public address system and upgrades at Penn Station.
- **Improving Baltimore's Public Transportation System**—I believe that public transportation offers a cost-effective, safe, and reliable means of travel for many residents of Baltimore. Baltimore currently has buses, light rail and subways that help many people move around the City and get to work. Through Recovery Act funding, the Maryland Transit Administration was able to invest \$27 million in purchasing 16 new buses and upgrading existing bus facilities in the Baltimore area. The MTA also invested \$17 million in light rail parking expansion and infrastructure upgrades. Finally, the MTA will use \$39 million to install a new public address system, upgrade the tracks as well as make repairs to bridges and tunnels along the Baltimore subway.

### *Chesapeake Bay:*

- **Supporting the Science and Environmental Education of Bay Restoration**—I introduced the Chesapeake Bay Science, Education and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2009, which reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office. This legislation increases collaboration between the various programs and activities to further NOAA's coastal resource stewardship mission. The NOAA office oversees the Chesapeake Bay Interpretative Buoy system (CBIBS) which is a system of buoys that reports real-time weather and

To learn more about how you can become involved in restoring the Chesapeake Bay please visit [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net).

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) can provide management, training and technical assistance. For more information visit [www.mdsbdc.umd.edu](http://www.mdsbdc.umd.edu) or 1-877-421-0830.

- environmental information such as wind speed, temperature, and wave height. To access the real-time information please visit [www.buoybay.org](http://www.buoybay.org). The legislation also strengthens the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program which is a competitive grant program that supports existing environmental education initiatives, fosters the growth of new programs, and encourages the development of partnerships among environmental education groups throughout the entire watershed. This bill will focus the relevant science, research and resource management capabilities of NOAA to restore the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Giving People Access to the Chesapeake Bay**—I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CBGN), a program that connects those who live in the Bay watershed to the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Bay and thereby encourages individual stewardship of these resources. The CBGN program has grown to include more than 150 sites and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails in six states and the District of Columbia. Through grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails, the Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. Gateway sites in Baltimore City include the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, the Gwynns Falls Trail and Greenway, the Fells Point Historic District, the Pride of Baltimore II and USS Constellation.
- **Engaging Individual Citizens in Restoring the Bay**—I recently introduced the Save the Bay Homeowner Act of 2010 (H.R. 6382), legislation that would help the 17 million citizens of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to become citizen stewards of the Bay and give them an active role in restoring it. The legislation directs the EPA to develop a “Save the Bay Home” designation program that identifies various steps homeowners could voluntarily take around their property to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff and improve water quality in local streams and rivers that feed into the Bay. If a participating home meets certain standards, examples of which could include installing rain barrels or reducing fertilizer on lawns, that home could be designated a “Save the Bay Home.” The bill further directs the EPA to give credit to states and local jurisdictions for nutrient and sediment level reduction based upon the number of homeowners that achieve the “Save the Bay Home” designation.

## ***Workforce Development:***

- **Keeping Teachers in the Classroom**—Due to the recent economic downturn, Baltimore City and other local governments are faced with cuts to basic services and layoffs of critical personnel like teachers and first responders. I voted for legislation that would give Baltimore City public schools and other local school districts in Maryland emergency funding that prevented more than 2,200 teacher layoffs in Maryland and 300 teachers in the 3rd Congressional District from impacting classrooms this school year.
- **Helping Individuals Transition Back into the Workforce**—The Mayor’s Office of Employment Development provides vital support and training to those who are trying to get back into the workforce. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided over \$6.1 million to support the 3 One-Stop Career Centers in Baltimore City. Through the One-Stop Career Centers, the City provides assistance to those looking for jobs including individual placement assistance, resume review, interviewing techniques, computer and other technical skills training. This funding also ensured that 6,000 young people had summer jobs which gives them valuable job training and skills to be successful in the workforce. I also worked with the Maryland Congressional Delegation to secure \$1 million to fund the Green Jobs Youth Corp which allowed 350 young people to learn green job skills including horticulture, wildlife management, urban forestry, historic preservation and invasive plant remediation.
- **Training Workers for Green Jobs**—Through a Recovery Act grant, Maryland received more than \$5 million to train 1,500 individuals and place them in energy-efficient employment in four different green industries. The project will be implemented through a regional partnership with businesses, community colleges and labor apprenticeship programs. It will also improve manufacturing sustainability practices and waste stream management, develop and expand green construction training options and assist workers as they pursue careers. Participants will earn certificates or degrees in waste stream management, environmental technology, renewable energy or green construction.
- **Helping the Unemployed**—Everyday I hear from people who are struggling to make ends meet during these difficult economic times. For this reason, I supported legislation that has extended unemployment benefits and the COBRA health insurance subsidy for unemployed workers through November 30, 2010.

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